

**CLAIMS**

5 **What is claimed is:**

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1. A system for enabling system users to establish at least one communication with one or more system users using a user indicator within an electronic document, the system comprising:

10 user indicator presentation means for presenting one or more user indicators associated with each of one or more system users within an electronic document;

communication selection means for enabling a user to select at least one communication mode from a plurality of communication modes; and

15 communication means for enabling a user to activate the one or more user indicators to initiate the at least one communication mode selected with the one or more system users associated with the one or more user indicators selected.

2. The system of claim 1, further comprising communication preventing means for enabling a system user to prevent other system users from establishing communications with that system user.

20 3. The system of claim 2, further comprising urgent communication request means for enabling the one or more system users to override the communication preventing means and to send an urgent communication request.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising preference presentation means for presenting a system user's preference for receiving communications.

25 5. The system of claim 4, further comprising communication options presenting means for presenting the communication options for a system user in an order preferred by the system user.

6. The system of claim 1, further comprising conference communication means for enabling the one or more system users to establish conference communications.

30 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the conference communication means enable the one or more system users to share at least one application.

5 8. A method for enabling system users to establish at least one communication with one or more system users using a user indicator within an electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

presenting one or more user indicators within an electronic document;

selecting at least one communication mode from a plurality of communication modes;

10 and

providing a communication link to one or more system users using the one or more user indicators.

15 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of establishing at least one communication with the one or more system users upon activation of the user indicator associated with those one or more system users.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of preventing the one or more system users from establishing a communication with at least one of the one or more system users based on that system user's request for privacy.

20 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of establishing an urgent communication by requesting the system user's request for privacy.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of presenting one or more communication option preferences for a system user by the user indicator in an order preferred by that system user.

13. The method of claim 8, wherein the communication is a conference communication.

25 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the conference communication involves sharing at least one application among system users.

15. A system for enabling system users to establish at least one communication with one or more system users using a user indicator within an electronic document, the system comprising:

30 a user indicator presentation module that presents one or more user indicators associated with each of one or more system users within an electronic document;

5 a communication selection module that enables a user to select at least one communication mode from a plurality of communication modes; and

a communication module that enables the one or more system users to activate the one or more user indicators to initiate at least one communication with that system user associated with that user indicator selected.

10 16. The system of claim 15, further comprising a communication preventing module that enables a system user to prevent other system users from establishing communications with that system user.

15 17. The system of claim 16, further comprising an urgent communication request module that enables the one or more system users to override the communication preventing module and to send an urgent communication request.

18. The system of claim 17, further comprising a communication options preference presentation module that presents system user's preference for receiving communications.

20 19. The system of claim 18, further comprising a communication options presenting module that presents the communication options for a system user in an order preferred by that system user.

20. The system of claim 19, further comprising a conference communication module that enables the one or more system users to establish conference communications.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the conference communication module enables the one or more system users to share at least one application.

25 22. A processor readable medium having processor readable code embodied therein for enabling a system user to establish at least one communication using a user indicator within an electronic document, the medium comprising:

user indicator identifying processor readable code that causes a processor to identify the one or more user indicators within an electronic document;

30 communication selection processor readable code that causes a processor to select at least one communication mode from a plurality of communication modes; and

23. The medium of claim 22, further comprising communication establishing processor readable code that causes a processor to establish at least one communication with one or more system users associated with a selected user indicator when that user indicator is selected.

24. The medium of claim 22, further communication preventing processor readable code that causes a processor to prevent other system users from establishing a communication with that system user.

25. The medium of claim 24, further comprising urgent communication requesting processor readable code that causes a processor to enable the one or more system users to send an urgent communication request.

26. The medium of claim 22, further comprising communication preference identifying processor readable code that causes a processor to enable the one or more system users to identify a preference for receiving the at least one communication.

27. The medium of claim 26, further comprising communication preference ordering processor readable code that causes a processor to present the at least one communication in an order preferred by that system user.

25 28. The medium of claim 22, further comprising conference communication establishing  
processor readable code that causes a processor to enable the one or more system users to  
establish conference communications.

29. The medium of claim 28, wherein the conference communication establishing code causes a processor to enables the one or more system users to share at least one application.

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